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Almost here

We've all heard the adage, "if you don't like the weather, wait five minutes," and nowhere is it truer than in Northern Nevada. One minute winds are gusting and it's hailing, the next it's balmy and sunny. So, just how would Northern Nevada's weather affect Santa's stops in the region?

It's unlikely a snowstorm would hinder him.

Since 1893, snow has fallen in Reno on Christmas Day just 31 times, according to Scott McGuire, meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

In 1971, a whopping 14.9 inches fell, but typically, when Reno sees snow on Christmas, it's much less. In 1921, the year with the second-highest total for Christmas snowfall, 5.2 inches fell; in 1968, 2.9 inches fell.

More recently, a trace of snow fell on Christmas Day in 2018 and in 2015, 0.2 inches was recorded.

The region's famous "Washoe Zephyr" winds also wouldn't come into play, McGuire said. The zephyrs are more of a summer phenomenon, and winter winds in the region are typically tied to storms.

"But Santa can fly through anything, so I don't think they would impact him in the least," McGuire said. "If Santa is circumnavigating the globe to deliver presents to kids, I'm sure a 30-40 mph wind wouldn't be too problematic."

Rudolph, Donner and Blitzen will be safe from predators when they touch down

Santa can't deliver his gifts without the help of his magic reindeer, which aren't native to Nevada. But is it safe for reindeer to spend time in the Reno area or are there too many predators? And what would a hungry reindeer snack on between stops?

While reindeer don't call Nevada home, the Silver State is home to several reindeer relatives – mule deer, elk and moose. They have some common characteristics with reindeer, according to Cody McKee, state elk and moose coordinator for the Nevada Department of Wildlife, but even on a cold year, it's too warm for reindeer to reside in Nevada.

"If you think about the Nevada climate, there are probably very few times they could even survive here," McKee said. "They could make it here in winter for a brief appearance for the Christmas season, then move on."

While Santa's reindeer are in the Reno area, they are likely to be safe from predators, he said. While Northern Nevada boasts golden eagles, mountain lions and coyotes, all of which can prey on reindeer, it is unlikely those predators will make their way into downtown Reno. Those types of predators tend to reside in less populated areas.

And while they're here, Santa's reindeer should find plenty to snack on. Lichens growing in forested areas and shrubs should hold the reindeer over between stops.

“That’s not to say they wouldn’t swing by and snack on someone’s alfalfa bales ... But there’s definitely some forage available that could carry them through a long night of present delivery,” McKee said.

If kids want to leave snack for Santa’s reindeer, he cautioned against leaving them cookies and other sweets.

“Based on their diet, complex carbohydrates don’t do well in ruminates,” he said.

Delivering gifts is the ultimate workout

Driving a sleigh, hefting a giant sack of presents, shimmying up and down a chimney – Christmas is the ultimate endurance event for Santa.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2019, there were nearly 103,000 unique households just in Reno’s city limits. How could Santa train for the marathon event, and what sort of nutrition would he need?

According to Reno-based online fitness coach Jessie Hilgenberg, he needs to strategically plan his meals and training because he could burn about 75 calories per household.

“It seems high, but you have to think about him driving the sleigh, landing it, getting in and out of the sleigh – and he’s not a super fit guy, it’s not going to be easy for him – getting the present sack, slinging it over his shoulder, going down the chimney, setting it all up, then reversing it,” she said. “He’s definitely magical, but for a non-magical person, it’s gotta take 30 minutes every house to do all that. If I’m working out intensely for 30 minutes, I guarantee you I can burn 75 calories.”

To fuel him through the night, he needs the same thing the rest of us do – a healthy mix of protein, carbohydrates and fiber.

Drinking the glasses of milk left out for him are good – full of protein and fat, they would keep him full, she said, but eating a cookie at each house could prove detrimental.

“He doesn’t want to overdo it and have a sugar crash halfway through,” she said.

An alternate option? Grab a bite of the raw carrots left out for the reindeer.

But after the big night, carbohydrates are fair game again.

“When you have an event like that, you deplete all the carbohydrates in your system,” she said. “I love the idea of him taking some cookies home with him and using them for refueling afterward and sharing with his team.”

<https://www.rgj.com/story/news/2021/12/20/just-how-hard-santa-clause-visit-reno-christmas-nevada-holiday/6407306001/>



More December History

December 22 In 1943, a land addition to Duckwater. (55Stat1955)

In 1999 the sale on Ebay of a Sacajewea dollar that had been prematurely reached the public in the lining a U.S. Mint bag of quarters was halted by the Secret Service when the bid was \$1,136.

December 24 In 1855 LDS missionaries in what would become Clark County recorded their wish that Native Americans they baptize would establish a camp on site of what is now known as Kiel Ranch.



FOCUS: David Treuer | Return the National Parks to the Tribes

David Treuer, The Atlantic

Treuer writes: "In 1851, members of a California state militia called the Mariposa Battalion became the first white men to lay eyes on Yosemite Valley. The group was largely made up of miners." [READ MORE](#)

Feds announce new funding to restore Las Vegas Wash

<https://www.nevadacurrent.com/2023/12/20/feds-announce-new-funding-to-restore-las-vegas-wash/?emci=559d3d79-599f-ee11-bea1-002248223f36&emdi=bd25e376-5c9f-ee11-bea1-002248223f36&ceid=88976>

CA agencies agree to conserve a combined 643,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Mead

<https://www.nevadacurrent.com/2023/12/14/ca-agencies-agree-to-conserve-a-combined-643000-acre-feet-of-water-in-lake-mead/>

Reminder: Webinar on the Draft Policy for Public Participation in Agency Decision-Making Processes

This is a reminder message to submit a public comment for the Draft Policy for Public Participation in Agency Decision-Making Processes by January 16, 2024, and to join the first public informational webinar.

EPA announced the release of the draft policy, [Achieving Health and Environmental Protection Through EPA's Meaningful Involvement Policy](#), that outlines updates on how the Agency will engage with the public and provide meaningful public involvement in all of its programs and regions. This policy is grounded in the acknowledgment that EPA's actions further strengthen health and environmental protections when they are informed by individuals with lived experience. The draft policy is available until **January 16, 2024**.

EPA will be hosting three public informational webinars to provide an overview of the policy and to allow the public to ask questions.

The webinars are scheduled for the following dates and times:

- December 20, 2023 from 7 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. (ET) at [Register Now](#)
- January 10, 2024 from 5 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. (ET) at [Register Now](#)
- January 11, 2024 from 6 p.m.- 7:00p.m. (ET) at [Register Now](#)

Tribes may request consultation regarding this policy by January 5, 2024, by visiting EPA's [Tribal Consultation Tracking Opportunities System \(TCOTS\) website](#).

Comments can be submitted via:

- **Emailing** MeaningfulInvolvementPolicy@epa.gov;
- **Submit the contact us form** <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/forms/epas-meaningful-involvement-policy-public-comment-submission>
- **The draft policy docket** [EPA-HQ-OEJECR-2023-0326](https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OEJECR-2023-0326) at www.regulations.gov.

Learn more: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/epas-meaningful-involvement-policy>

Questions: Please contact MeaningfulInvolvementPolicy@epa.gov.

Nevada Lithium Circular Economy Conference: The Nevada Lithium Circular Economy Conference will be held in Reno, with discussions on the future of lithium batteries. Attendees can book rooms at the Whitney Peak Hotel and enjoy the city's offerings. (unr.edu)

The Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce offers two new compelling Leadership Programs (sponsored): The Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce introduces two leadership programs aimed at fostering community growth and collaboration. The programs, including a Leadership Class and Executive Training, offer local professionals development opportunities. (thisisreno.com)

HHS Secretary Becerra visits Reno to discuss health care access in Latino, Tribal, rural communities: HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra visited Reno to discuss improving health care access for Latino, Tribal, and rural communities. He emphasized the importance of recruiting health care professionals to areas like Reno and addressed health care equity and the provision of services in Tribal lands. (kunr.org)

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$600M to 11 Grantmakers to Fund Thousands of Environmental Justice Projects Across the Nation as Part of Investing in America Agenda

Grantmakers selected to reduce barriers to federal funds and issue thousands of environmental justice grants over the next three years.

As part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda, the Biden-Harris Administration announced on Wednesday \$600 million for 11 selected Grantmakers under EPA's Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking program, created by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, the largest investment in climate action in history. This new grant program, which will make it easier for small community-based organizations to access federal environmental justice funding, responds to community feedback about the need to reduce barriers to federal funds and improve the efficiency of the awards process to ensure communities that have long faced underinvestment can access the benefits of the largest climate investment in history. Communities will be able to apply to a Grantmaker for a subgrant to fund a range of different environmental project activities, including (but not limited to) small local clean ups, local emergency preparedness and disaster resiliency programs, environmental workforce development programs for local jobs reducing greenhouse gas emissions, fenceline air quality and asthma related projects, healthy homes programs, and projects addressing illegal dumping.

President Biden is delivering the most ambitious environmental justice agenda in our nation's history. Vice President Kamala Harris and EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan were joined by Dr. Robert Bullard, a Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy at Texas Southern University to announce the historic Grantmaker awards.

"Every person has a right to drink clean water, breathe clean air, and live in a community that is healthy and safe," **said Vice President Kamala Harris.** "For too long, however, low-income communities, immigrant communities, Native communities, and communities of color have endured disproportionate levels of air, water, and soil pollution. That is why President Joe Biden and I have put equity at the center of our nation's largest investment in climate in history. Today's announcement puts that commitment into action by ensuring critical resources to fund environmental justice projects across the country reach the organizations that know their communities best."

“For years, community advocates have been calling for federal support and resources to help address our country’s most pressing environmental justice concerns,” **said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. “Thanks to President Biden and Vice President Harris’ leadership, we’re responding to these calls by removing barriers that have traditionally held communities and applicants back from accessing these historic investments in America. Together, in partnership with these Grantmakers, we are taking a giant step toward a future where every person in America has equal opportunity to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and live a healthy, productive life.”

The Grantmakers will work in collaboration with [EPA’s Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights](#) to issue subgrants to community-based nonprofit organizations and other eligible organizations representing disadvantaged communities. The 11 Grantmakers will design comprehensive application and submission processes, award environmental justice subgrants, implement tracking and reporting systems, and provide resources and support to communities. The subgrants are expected to become available by summer of 2024.

The 11 Grantmakers consist of regional selectees (i.e., Regional Grantmakers) who will issue subgrants to communities in specific EPA Regions, as well as national selectees (i.e., National Grantmakers) who will provide additional support, coordination, and oversight to the subgrantees, applicants, and the Regional Grantmakers themselves, as well as issue additional subgrants to fill potential gaps in the regions. Ten Grantmakers are receiving \$50 million each with one selectee, Research Triangle Institute, receiving \$100 million to serve as both a Regional Grantmaker serving communities in EPA Region 4 and as a National Grantmaker in which part of their responsibility is providing subgrants to communities in EPA Region 7. Collectively, the 11 Grantmakers will issue thousands of subgrants to disadvantaged communities over the next three years.

EPA has selected the following nine organizations to serve as Regional Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmakers:

- Health Resources in Action, Massachusetts (EPA Region 1)
- Fordham University, New York (EPA Region 2)
- Green & Healthy Homes Initiative Inc., Maryland (EPA Region 3)
- Research Triangle Institute, North Carolina (EPA Region 4)
- The Minneapolis Foundation, Minnesota (EPA Region 5)
- Texas Southern University, Texas (EPA Region 6)
- JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc., Colorado (EPA Region 8)
- Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE), Inc., California (EPA Region 9)
- Philanthropy Northwest, Washington (EPA Region 10)

In addition, EPA has selected three National Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmakers, including:

- Institute For Sustainable Communities, Vermont (EPA Regions 1-3)

- Research Triangle Institute, North Carolina (EPA Regions 4-7)
- Climate Justice Alliance, California (EPA Regions 8-10)

Grantmakers are expected to begin opening competitions and awarding subgrants by summer 2024. Community-based nonprofit organizations and other eligible organizations seeking subgrant funding will be able to apply for subgrants through three concurrent tiers offered by the Grantmakers. Tier One will consist of grants for \$150,000 for assessment, Tier Two will consist of grants for \$250,000 for planning, and Tier Three will consist of grants for \$350,000 for project development. In addition, \$75,000 will be available for capacity-constrained community-based organizations through a noncompetitive process under Tier One. Each Grantmaker will design and implement a distribution program best suited for their region and communities.

The Grantmakers program is part of the [Federal Interagency Thriving Communities Network](#) and delivers on the Biden-Harris Administration's [Justice40 Initiative](#) which set the goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution. Grantmakers will work in collaboration with the [Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers](#) to create a robust support network to assist eligible entities when applying.

[Learn more about the Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmakers.](#)

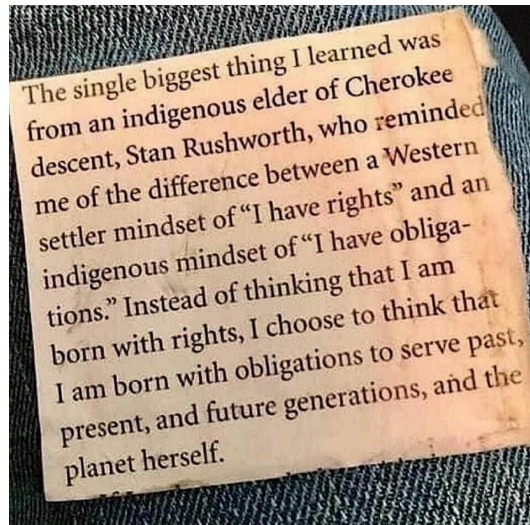
Background

From day one of their administration, President Biden and Vice President Harris have made achieving environmental justice a top priority. In August 2022, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act into law, creating the largest investment in environmental and climate justice in U.S. history. EPA received \$3 billion in total to award grants and fund related technical assistance to benefit disadvantaged communities.

EPA has since launched and expanded innovative programs to provide more support than ever before to communities that unjustly bear the burdens of environmental harm and pollution. This includes the \$177 million for the creation of [16 EJ TCTACs](#) in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy to remove barriers to federal resources and help communities pursue funding opportunities like those made available through President Biden's Investing in America Agenda.

EPA [announced nearly \\$128 million](#) to fund 186 projects across the country that advance environmental justice as part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda. The organizations, which EPA has selected through its [Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Cooperative Agreement](#) and [Environmental Justice Government-to-Government](#) programs, will use the funds to ensure disadvantaged communities that have historically suffered from underinvestment have access to clean air and water and climate resilience solutions in alignment with the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative.

EPA also announced [approximately \\$2 billion](#) in funding available to support community-driven projects that deploy clean energy, strengthen climate resilience, and build capacity for communities to tackle environmental and climate justice challenges last month. The [Community Change Grants](#) are the single largest investment in environmental justice going directly to communities in history, and will advance collaborative efforts to achieve a healthier, safer, and more prosperous future for all. [Learn more about environmental justice at EPA](#)



Arcadia Cold Reno facility in Storey County spans more than 250,000 square feet and will bring 75 jobs to the area.



rgj.com

[Arcadia opens massive cold storage facility at Tahoe Reno Industrial Center](#)

[Arcadia Cold Reno facility in Storey County spans more than 250,000 square feet and will bring 75 jobs to the area.](#)

nature.com

[This GPT-powered robot chemist designs reactions and makes drugs — on its own](#)

[Nature - A system called Coscientist scours the Internet for instructions, then designs and executes experiments to synthesize molecules.](#)

Thanks to a \$36 million gift from the Gillemot Foundation, a new aerospace engineering program prepares for takeoff: The University of Nevada, Reno, is set to develop an Aerospace Engineering Department thanks to a \$36 million donation from the Gillemot Foundation. This significant contribution will build on the existing aerospace minor and bolster the region's growing aerospace industry. (unr.edu)



The Yule Faeries - A Winter Solstice Story

by D. J. Conway

A group of little Faeries huddled in their home deep under the roots of a giant oak tree. They were safe and snug in their tiny underground cave lined with dandelion fluff, bird feathers, and dried moss.

Outside, the wind blew cold and the snow fell softly down to cover the ground. "I saw the Sun King today," the faerie named Rose said as she pulled her mossy cloak tighter about her. "He looked so old and tired as he walked off through the forest. What is wrong with him?"

"The great oak said he's dying" answered Daffodil.

"Dying? Oh, what will we do now?", Little Meadow Grass started to cry, "If the Sun King dies, our little plant friends will not grow. The Birds will not come and sing again. Everything will be winter for ever!" Lilac, Dandelion and Elder Blossom tried to comfort their friend, but they were all very sad. As they huddled together, there was a knock on the tiny door.

"Open up, Faeries," called out a loud voice. "Why are you hiding instead of joining us in our Solstice celebration?" Rose opened the door and the little gnome Brown Knobby pushed inside, shaking the glistening snowflakes off his brown coat and hat.

"We are too sad to celebrate," Daffodil said wiping her eyes, "The Sun King is dying, haven't you heard?"

"He is dead you silly Faeries." Brown Knobby's round dark eyes sparkled with laughter. "Now hurry, or we'll be late for the celebration!"

"How can you be happy and laughing?!" Elder Blossom stamped her little foot and frowned at the gnome. "If the Sun King IS dead, it will be winter always. We will never see the Sun again!"

"Silly little child-Faeries." Brown Knobby grabbed Dandelion by the hand and pulled her to her feet. "There is a secret to the Winter Solstice. Don't you want to know what it is?"

The Faeries looked at him in surprise. "Secret?" they all said. "What secret? We are only new little Faeries, you silly gnome. We've never been to a Solstice celebration before."

"Come and see. Come and see. Get your capes and come with me." Brown Knobby danced and jigged around the room. "Hurry, Hurry, don't be slow! To the Sacred Oak Grove through the snow!" He danced out of the door and disappeared.

"What did that gnome mean?" Rose asked as she gathered up her cloak of dried rose petals held together with cobwebs and lined with goose down.

"I don't know, but the Lady lives in the Sacred Grove." Meadow Grass pulled on her hat.

"Perhaps if we go to see the Goddess, She can explain what Brown Knobby was talking about".

The Faeries left their snug little home and trudged off through the snow toward the sacred oak grove. The forest was dark with only the light of the Moon shining down through the thick fir

branches and bare limbs of maple and hawthorn. It was very difficult for them to get through the snow because they were very, very small. As they waded through the wet snow and shivered in the cold wind, they met a fox.

"Where are you going, Faeries?" the fox asked.

"To the sacred grove," they answered, they were cold and shivering.

"Climb on my back and I will take you there swiftly."

The fox knelt down so the Faeries could climb up. Then he raced off through the dark.

"Listen!" Lilac said as they neared the Grove of Sacred trees. "Someone is singing happy songs. A LOT of someones."

The beautiful music carried over the cold, still, moonlit air. It was the most beautiful music the Faeries had ever heard. The fox carried the Faeries right to the edge of the stone altar in the center of the grove, then knelt down.

"Look!" said Elder Blossom as they slid to the snow covered ground. "There is the Maiden and the Mother and the OLD Wise Crone, and many other Little People."

"They are all smiling and happy," said Lilac as she looked around at all the creatures.

"All the animals are here too," whispered Dandelion. "Why are they all looking at the Mother?"

The Faeries moved closer to the three Ladies seated on the altar stone. The Mother held a bundle close in Her arms, smiling down at it. The Maiden reached down and took the Faeries gently in her Hands. She held them close to the Mother so they could see what She held.

"A Baby!" the Faeries cried. "A new little Baby! Look how he glows!"

"He is the newborn Sun King," said the Maiden smiling.

"But Brown Knobby and the old oak tree said the Sun King was dead," the Faeries answered her.

"How can this little baby be the Sun King?"

"That is the great secret of the Winter Solstice." The Old Wise One touched the baby's cheek with her wrinkled hand. "Every year the Sun King must come to the sacred grove during the darkest days of winter where he dies. I take his spirit to the Mother who gives him new life again. This is the way for all creatures, not just the Sun King."

"You mean everything lives and dies and lives again? the Faeries looked down in wonder at the baby Sun King, nestled in the arms of the Mother.

"Yes, Little Ones," answered the Old Wise Crone. "There is never an end to life. This is the great mystical secret of the Winter Solstice."

The Faeries laughed because they were so happy.

"I think the little Sun King should have gifts," said Rose. "I will show him where the wild roses bloom in the early summer."

"And, I will teach him to call the birds and listen to the songs of the wind," exclaimed Dandelion.

"When he is older and stronger," said the Mother, "then the flowers will bloom at his touch, the birds will return to sing their songs, and the air will be warm from his breath, and winter will be gone for a time. Then the Sun King will run and play with you in the forest."

The little Faeries sang to the Baby Sun King, songs of the coming spring, the sweet smelling flowers, the bumbling bees, and all the secrets of the forest. And all the creatures within the sacred grove sang with them. Then the fox took them back to their snug home under the roots of the giant oak tree where they dreamed wonderful dreams, waiting for the warmth of spring and the fun they would have with the little Sun King.

[Image: Lady of the Wildwood watercolor by designer/artist Helena Nelson Reed • [https://](https://helenanelsonreed.com)

helenanelsonreed.com] The Smart Witch by Elizabeth #ClassicTheSmartWitch 19Dec22